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Roster of Editorial Board appears in this issue at beginning of California Medical Association department. (For page number of C.M.A. department, see index below.)

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F. Burton Jones Vallejo 1947
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Leaflet Regarding Rules of Publication.—CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE has prepared a leaflet explaining its rules regarding publication. This leaflet gives suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts and of illustrations. It is suggested that contributors to this Journal write to its offices requesting a copy of this leaflet.

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EDITORIALS

INDOCTRINATION COURSE FOR APPLICANTS TO COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP—LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION INAUGURATES A CONSTRUCTIVE PLAN

World Unrest Makes for Social Unrest and Changes.—In all places and at all times, acute variations in modes of government or living have brought into being new methods of procedure; the changes being designed to create better harmony with conditions that may have undergone rapid and extensive variation.

An example of such a phenomenon may be noted in the different outlook and orientation now almost everywhere held on national and international relationships. These have grown up through observation of the dreadful costs in human suffering and lives, and the vast devastation of material resources that have taken place in both occidental and oriental countries.

For today, it may be said that European and Occidental civilizations are in a state of flux,—in some places more, in others less—but everywhere in sufficient amount to influence the present and future living of millions of human beings.

* * *

Medical Practice is also Faced with Changes.—Since such conditions exist, it is not surprising that the healing art profession should now find itself called upon to solve new and difficult problems in medical organization and economics; on matters which, a brief quarter of a century ago, were not given even a passing thought by perhaps eight out of every ten Doctors of Medicine.

The significance of such a state of affairs is this:—That many, perhaps a majority of physicians, who are now being called upon to consider plans that could make great changes in individual and collective medical practice,—do not possess the background of knowledge on medical economics and public relations to enable them to form quick and satisfactory conclusions on proposed methods of practice, that are radically different from those to which they have been accustomed since their undergraduate days.

While many individual physicians have failed to sense the significance of these impending innovations, such have been appreciated, however, by many medical organizations and their administrative officers.

County Medical Societies Can Lay Foundation for Better Understanding.—How to lay the foundation for a better understanding by all physicians of the problems now confronting the medical profession has been much discussed during the last two or three decades. Many plans have been proposed but few have been accepted or tried out. Recently, one of the component county medical units of the California Medical Association—that of Los Angeles—has announced and put into operation its “Indoctrination Plan,”—a procedure that is certainly thought-stimulating.

There may be some who would contend that what is being attempted in Los Angeles is an activity more properly a function of every medical school. Perhaps so, but since the medical schools of the United States have given little more than lip service to their responsibilities in this work, it follows that the next line of attack must be, not with the undergraduate student, but with the individual upon whom the M.D. degree has already been bestowed by a medical school.

* * *

County Medical Societies are Sole Judges of Membership Applicants.—The question then arises,—What are the ways and means through which Doctors of Medicine may be contacted and put in better harmony with changes now taking place?

The answer is.—Through the County Medical Societies, since practically all physicians do or should aspire for membership in the organizations that are made up of their fellow physicians who have joined together in collective effort; in order better to promote an improvement in the service quality of both scientific medicine and public health activities.

Fortunately, membership in the national and state medical societies may only be secured through prior membership in a component county medical society. The county medical units possess the sole, absolute, and independent authority on who, and under what conditions an applicant physician may be granted membership relations. Since the county medical societies possess these rights, they also have the obligation to demand that all physicians whom they do admit into membership shall have not only proper scientific and ethical qualifications, but also an adequate understanding and outlook on medical organization, economics and public relations. While it is true that individuals contribute much to the advancement of scientific medicine, the end results depend in good part upon the collective or mass work of physicians.

* * *

What is the “Indoctrination Plan” of the Los Angeles County Medical Association?—What has been written above, is a sort of prelude to presentation of the significant plan recently instituted by the third largest county medical association in the United States—that of Los Angeles. (For statistics, see page 136.)

The story of the aspirations of that important county unit—exceeded in membership numbers by only 9 constituent state medical societies of the American Medical Association—is best told perhaps in excerpts from editorials and articles that have appeared in *The Bulletin* of the Los Angeles County Medical Association.

It is to be hoped that members will take the time to read these, and to ask themselves whether in their own county medical organizations, somewhat similar plans could not be tried.

The excerpts follow:

1 1 1

(1) From *The Bulletin* of October 4, 1945:

That every applicant for membership in a component county medical association should be required to attend a course of lectures designed to indoctrinate him thoroughly in certain aspects of the successful practice of medicine, was the substance of a resolution recently adopted by the Council of the California Medical Association. The plan was discussed by the Council of the Los Angeles County Medical Association at its last meeting.

If the program is accepted, every physician who seeks membership will be required to attend and to pass an examination on the subject matter of a series of lectures by qualified instructors in professional ethics, malpractice prophylaxis, laws governing medical practice and narcotics, the state poison act, public health ordinances, and laws governing birth, death and other certificates. The history of our county medical association—its aims, accomplishments and struggles—should be taught to every new member. Each applicant should become familiar with the work of the Physicians' Aid Association and the Medical Milk Commission. He would also derive benefit from information concerning the county hospital, the health department, the coroner's office, workmen's compensation laws and proper conduct as an expert witness.

1 1 1

(2) From *The Bulletin* of December 20, 1945:

Indoctrination.—Each new applicant for membership in the Los Angeles County Medical Association will henceforth be required to attend a course of lectures by qualified instructors, designed to augment his knowledge of California laws affecting the practice of medicine, of malpractice prophylaxis, of professional ethics and courtesy, of the Association's history, accomplishments and aims, and of other essential subjects. This, the so-called “Indoctrination Plan,” was discussed more fully on this page in *The Bulletin* of October 4, 1945. The Council, at its meeting on December 3, ordered that the program be instituted forthwith and instructed President J. J. Crane to appoint a committee to outline and supervise the required course of instruction.

The number of lectures to be given, the topics, the lecturers, and the scope of the examination will be determined by the committee. It is believed that this instruction will be of material value, not only to young physicians but to those from outside the State who are unfamiliar with customs and conditions in California. The applicant will also obtain a knowledge of the Association and its activities which should encourage his active participation in its work from the beginning of his career.

This has become increasingly difficult as the number of applicants has increased. Membership in this Association is a valuable and coveted asset. It should be granted only to physicians of high character and ability, whose careers will add to the lustre of that membership. The Association has no need of those whose business methods, habits, or lack of ability have made them failures elsewhere.

(3) From *The Bulletin* of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, issue of February 7, 1946:

A change in the procedure admitting applicants to membership in the Los Angeles County Medical Association was approved by the Council at its December meeting. At that meeting a committee known as a General Committee on Indoctrination was appointed: Dr. Jay J. Crane, Chairman, and Doctor L. A. Alesen, Howard W. Bosworth, E. T. Remmen, and Paul D. Quaintance.

The committee was instructed to develop and to put into effect a program providing for a series of lectures on subjects of importance to all doctors of medicine seeking membership in the Association—attendance of applicants at these lectures being necessary before their applications would be considered by the Council.

The General Committee on Indoctrination, at its first meeting January 14, announced the appointment of the following sub-committees—each sub-committee charged with presenting one of the six lecture courses:

On Medical Organization

E. T. Remmen, M.D., Chairman

On Health Insurance

Lowell S. Goin, M.D., Chairman

On Medical Public Relations

Paul A. Quaintance, M.D., Chairman

On Medical Ethics

Donald A. Charnock, M.D., Chairman

On Medical Education and Medical Economics

L. A. Alesen, M.D., Chairman

On Medical Malpractice

Donald G. Tollefson, M.D., Chairman

These lectures will be presented in the lounge of the Association, beginning promptly at 7:30 o'clock on the 3rd and 4th Friday evenings of each month. The first lecture was presented January 25.

Dr. Regan stated that each chairman of the various sub-committees had assumed the responsibility of preparing a lecture. Following the lecture the applicants will have the privilege of asking questions. Dr. Regan expressed the hope that all members of the sub-committee presenting a subject at a given meeting, would attend that meeting.

Dr. Remmen said that a major objective sought in this program was that members of the committees could become acquainted with the applicants. He recommended that the meetings be so arranged that committee members would have the opportunity to interview the applicants to determine their attitude toward the Association, and to gain further information about their background.

Dr. Crowe moved that the plan as presented by Dr. Regan, including the composition and activities of the various committees, be approved by the General Indoctrination Committee. This motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

**TWO IMPORTANT MEDICAL CONVENTIONS
IN CALIFORNIA THIS YEAR—C.M.A. AT
LOS ANGELES, MAY 7-10; A.M.A. IN
SAN FRANCISCO, JULY 1-5**

Los Angeles Session Will Transact Important Business.—Now that VE and VJ days are behind us, California Medical Association will change in this year, 1946, from a two-day and streamlined week-end annual session, to one of four days duration.

Place will be Hotel Biltmore in Los Angeles;

the dates, Tuesday, May 7 through Friday, May 10.

The C.M.A. Committee on Scientific Work and Section Officers have been somewhat handicapped in the preparation of the scientific programs, because many members have been in military service, and the conditions under which civilian physicians have been carrying on their work, have not given much time for research and special studies.

It is hoped, however, to present scientific addresses, papers and panel discussions that will have appeal, and be of up-to-date interest and value. The complete programs will appear in the April issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

Much important business will be presented for consideration, to both the House of Delegates of the California Medical Association and Administrative Members of California Physicians' Service.

Social events will not be entirely forgotten. The dinner reception to retiring President Philip K. Gilman will take place in the Biltmore Bowl, where a large attendance of one thousand persons is almost a certainty.

C.M.A. members are requested to make note of the days of the meetings, and to arrange their schedules to permit attendance, if at all possible.

Younger members and physicians who have taken up their residence in California during the last several years are especially urged to attend; to learn for themselves the benefits that may be derived through contacts with fellow physicians, in both scientific and good fellowship conferences.

* * *

American Medical Session will Follow, in July, at San Francisco.—The 74th annual session of the American Medical Association was held in San Francisco June 25-29, 1923, and the 94th annual convention, June 13-17, 1938. This year's annual conference of the A.M.A. will convene in San Francisco on Monday, July 1 and carry on through Friday, July 5.

According to A.M.A. custom, the local county medical association—San Francisco County Medical Society—rather than the California Medical Association will be the host of honor; although both organizations will work in close relationship in order to make this San Francisco session a great success.

Dr. John W. Cline was nominated to be chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, and with his associates, he has gotten arrangements in good hand.

Because this is the first opportunity since beginning of World War II, for physicians throughout the United States to meet in annual conference, after the manner of former years, and because many physicians who have been working under stress and strain during the war years need a vacation, there is every indication that the